

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 20, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-25 were pending in the application. Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled and no claims have been amended or newly added. Therefore, claims 1-23 are pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

Applicants thank the examiner for indicating that claims 1-23 are allowed.

This amendment deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. patent 6,527,667 to Oshidari et al. (hereafter "Oshidari"). Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Oshidari. Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled, making moot the rejections of these claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the application should now be allowed since all the pending claims have been allowed in the Office Action. If an examiner's amendment is required to correct any informality, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the number below..

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 8, 2004

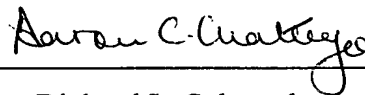
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